



[11443/72]

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP ART UNIT 3739**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s) : Michael WHITMAN
Serial No. : 10/099,634
Filing Date : March 15, 2002
For : ELECTRO-MECHANICAL SURGICAL DEVICE
Group Art Unit : 3739
Examiner : Beverly Flanagan

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

This addresses the Final Office Action of January 23, 2006. Initially, kindly amend the above-captioned application without prejudice as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

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